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628 These acts of vengeance were not considered as murders but as duly merited punishments, wherewith a crime, supposed or real, had been expiated. Thus one murder was often the first link of a long chain of similar crimes, as the relations of the first victim considered themselves compelled, according to the Indian custom, to put the murderer to death.

762 Suicide was generally committed by hanging or by discharging a loaded gun in the throat. No one would prevent a person from taking his own life under the above-mentioned circumstances.

674 There is in general little crime among the Indians and the life and property of foreigners is respected; several cases of piracy, that is, the plundering by the Miskito of vessels wrecked on the coast, have been recorded, however (Bard: 160; Bell, b: 294; Wickham, b: 204).

CHARACTER

157 The Indian, as a rule, is very frank and outspoken, silent, phlegmatic, honest, and reliable, but also somewhat revengeful and ungrateful and inclined to drunkenness.

Even among their own kindred the Indian will show great reserve upon the first approach, but after a while this changes, and soon they will relate to each other the details of their respective hunts and travels.

Stinginess is considered the worst of all vices, and the foreigner who is very liberal in bestowing small presents among them is soon known far and wide as a "good man" (M.: *wâlkna pâtn;* S.: *al yamni, al yamka*).

461 All these Indians are somewhat inclined to laziness and are fond of passing whole days in their hammocks. Still one must admire their great patience, skill, and endurance in hunting and fishing. They are able to paddle in the hot sunshine for 10 hours a day, making only a short stop at noon in order to prepare their meal.

157 Much patience must be observed during the relations with the Indians, and self-control is considered by them as one of the cardinal virtues. If a laborer has been insulted by his employer he will generally keep up with his day's work, or the time he has been contracted for, without showing any perceptible sign of dissatisfaction. At the expiration of his engagement he will ask for his time, without giving any reason, and later apply somewhere else for work. The Indian has little respect for the newcomer who indulges frequently in sudden outbursts of temper.

● 518 As a general rule these Indians are not quarrelsome, especially the men. But once a difference has arisen between the women, the most obscene and vulgar language is used without interruption for whole

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hours. During this time the quarrelers follow their usual occupation; from time to time they appear at the doorway in order to make themselves better heard. One tries to overtalk her adversary, picking out the weak points in the personal appearance, habits, and morals of the other. They, however, seldom come to blows. During this time the men remain passive onlookers, as they are not supposed to interfere in such quarrels. They will, nevertheless, attempt to persuade their wife to desist from the vulgar language and prepare the next meal.

Contact with foreigners is rapidly modifying the character of the Indians; it has made them less shy and easier to approach, and more hospitable, but on the other hand has made them more pretentious and less reliable and trustworthy. It has introduced begging among them, a practice which was formerly unknown. The more primitive Sumu even to this day will never ask a stranger for a present, and if the latter should offer them a leaf of tobacco or the like they will promptly give him some article of food in exchange. The Sumu, if unwilling to answer a question, will simply say *talnas-yañ*, "I do not know," or they will give an evasive answer, but the Miskito will frequently turn to a deliberate lie. The childish preference for anything foreign is also the result of contact with the white man.

The hybrid Miskito differ greatly in character from the pure Indians, owing to their large admixture with Negro blood and their long association with foreign traders and settlers. They are rather noisy, bold, daring, adventurous, self-assertive, arrogant, and up to the present day they are prone to domineer over their more gentle and peaceable neighbors. In former days some of the Sumu, Paya, and Rama were subject to the "King" of the Miskito, to whom they had to pay a sort of tribute in the form of dugout canoes, cattle, and other articles. The ascendancy of the Miskito over the other tribes of the Mosquito Coast began about the latter part of the seventeenth century, after the former had become acquainted with the use of firearms through the agency of the buccaneers. The Miskito even undertook in the following years marauding expeditions to the coast of Costa Rica and Panama, in order to enslave the Indians and plunder the cacao plantations of the Spaniards.

PERSONAL NAMES

The members of the same family address each other generally according to age and sex as father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, elder brother, younger sister, etc. The infant does not receive any individual name until some peculiarity of appearance, manner, habit, or character has been observed.